

CLAIMS

1. A communication system comprising:
 - a first communication network supporting a protocol for the transmission of simplex communications on the communication system and having a first communication controller to support such communications;
 - a first communication device operable with the simplex communication protocol for the transmission of simplex communications on the communication system; and,
 - a second communication device coupled to the first communication device and operable to emulate simplex communication protocols for the transmission of simplex communications.
2. The communication system of Claim 1 wherein the emulation of simplex communications will alternately place the second communication device in a transmit mode and a receive mode.
3. The communication system of Claim 1 wherein the emulation of simplex communications supports the transmission of data packets.
4. The communication system of Claim 1 wherein the first communication device initiates a communication by transmitting an address identifier for the second communication device to the first communication controller.

5. The communication system of Claim 4 wherein the first communication controller translates the address identifier into an Internet Protocol address for the second communication device.
6. The communication system of Claim 5 wherein the first communication controller establishes a communication link to the second communication device identified by the address identifier.
7. The communication system in Claim 6 wherein the first communication device transmits a data packet to the second communication device when the first communication device is placed in a transmit mode.
8. The communication system in Claim 7 wherein the first communication device is placed in a transmit mode upon activation of a transmit button.
9. The communication system of Claim 1 wherein the first communication device is placed in a receive mode to receive data packets after transmitting a simplex communication.
10. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:
a presence control routine to indicate the condition of the second communication device as actively coupled to the communication system.

11. The communication system of Claim 10 wherein the presence control routine will allow the first communication device to display status information about the second communication device.

12. The communication system of Claim 11 wherein the status information displayed on a screen of the first communication device includes text, icons, or a combination thereof.

13. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:
a subscriber specified preference listing to identify the type of communication device to be used when communicating to a subscriber using one or more recipient communication devices.

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14. A method of communicating on a first communication network comprising the steps of:

preparing the first communication device to emulate a first communication protocol;

accepting a destination address identifier at the first communication device;

providing the destination address identifier to a first controller on the first communication network to support establishing a communication link to a second communication device addressed by the destination address;

preparing data to be transmitted from the first communication device; and,

transmitting the data to the second communication device identified by the destination address.

15. The communication method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

placing the first communication device in a receive mode after the data transmission is complete.

16. The communication method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

storing transmitted data if the second communication device is not actively connected to the first communication network.

17. The communication method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

executing a presence routine to indicate the condition of the second communication device as actively coupled to the first communication network.

18. The communication method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

storing transmitted data if the second communication device is not actively connected to the first communication network.

19. The communication method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

programming a user specified preference listing to indicate a preferred second communication device that should be used when communicating with a subscriber having a plurality of second communication devices actively coupled to the first network.

20. The communication method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying on the first communication device the connection status of the second communication device.

21. A communication device for transmission of messages using a first type of communication protocol comprising:

- an initiation program for initializing the first communication device for use on a first communication network;
- an emulation program executed on the first communication device for supporting emulated communications according to the first type of communication protocol;
- an address identifier data input on the first communication device operable to receive a destination address for a second communication device;
- a microphone receiver and speaker on the first communication device;
- a transmit message switch on the first communication device operable to transmit a data communication to the second communication device; and,
- a transmitter operable to transmit address and data communication from the first communication device to the second communication device using the first type of communication protocol.

22. The communication device of Claim 21, further comprising:

- a receiver on the first communication device to receive messages addressed to the first communication device.

23. The communication device of Claim 21, wherein the first communication device transmits data communications to the second communication device identified at the destination address.

24. The communication device of Claim 21, wherein the first communication device transmits data communications when in a transmit mode.

25. The communication device of Claim 21, wherein the first communication device receives data communications when in a receive mode.

26. The communication device of Claim 21, wherein the first communication device is coupled to a first communication controller on a first communication network.

27. The communication device of Claim 26, wherein the first communication controller is a media gateway controller.

28. The communication device of Claim 21, wherein the data transmitted to the first communication device is stored on a first communication network controller for later retrieval after the first communication device becomes actively coupled to the first communication network.